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Public Records under the Texas Public
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This is a sample of the records only.

have at least eight women paddlers.

As the paddlers climb aboard and sit down two abreast, the canoes sink low in the water, only a few inches of freeboard separating them from the choppy lake. The drummer sits on an elevated platform in the prow, a fat drum clutched between his or her knees, facing the crew and commanding attention; the steersperson sits aft. The dragon boats lurch in zigzags to the starting line. Once all the boats have come to the line, an official starter sounds the air horn, the drumming begins, and the boats surge forward.

In theory, teams are supposed to paddle in sync the whole time so that the boat moves like a well-oiled machine. I notice, however, that some crews seem to discard the paddling-in-unison concept and adopt The Wave approach (think of the stadium "wave" at sporting events)—their boats look like uncoordinated caterpillars. Water flies in all directions as all those paddles move furiously. Traveling about one-third of a mile using arm power is apparently much tougher than going that distance with your legs. Still, in less than three minutes, the first contest is over.

BAY AREA HOUSTON ATTRACTIONS

KEVIN STILLMAN

THE HUB of the multi-city region known as **Bay Area Houston**, home of the Gulf Coast International Dragon Boat Regatta, is NASA/Johnson Space Center and Clear Lake, a 2,000-acre inlet of Galveston Bay.

As soon as the dragon boats are snug against the shore, cruise along NASA Parkway to sample the restaurants and other attractions. **Mediterraneo Market & Café** (18033 Upper Bay Rd., Nassau Bay; 281/333-3180) serves moussaka, salads, and sandwiches worthy of stars, while **East Star Chinese Buffet & Sushi Bar** (1025 E. NASA Pkwy.; 281/280-8819) offers an astounding variety of delicious seafood, sushi, and Chinese dishes.

Tour **Space Center Houston**, the official visitors center for NASA/Johnson Space Center (281/244-2100; www.spacecenter.org), and let your spirits rise. Get close to history and the stars in the Starship Gallery, displaying an early *Mercury* spacecraft (smaller than an SUV!), an *Apollo* command module, and a *Skylab* trainer that you can walk through. Then test your space skills on flight simulators located near the memorable spacesuit collection. Other activities include IMAX films and behind-the-scenes tram tours.

Come back to earth again at **Armand Bayou Nature Center** (281/474-2551; www.abnc.org), and hike its nature trails, follow the boardwalk through forest and marsh, or try the pontoon-boat tours of



A group enjoys a scene in the Armand Bayou Nature Center from the boardwalk.

the wetlands. Bison, hawks, and alligators are among the 360-plus species that call this 2,500-acre wildlife refuge home.

Kemah Boardwalk rocks with attractions and at least eight restaurants, including Landry's Seafood House (877/285-3624; www.landryseafoodhouse.com), which dishes up a bananas Foster large enough to feed half a dragon-boat crew. While the lights of the amusement-park rides slice the starry sky over Galveston Bay and gleeful shrieks of kids and adults fill the air, watch for night herons, lit by the boardwalk lights, fishing in the bay.

For general information on restaurants and attractions, call **Bay Area Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau** at 800/844-5253; www.visitbayareahouston.com.

A Snapshot of

Greenville

Great Shopping



Audie Murphy
American Cotton Museum

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Greenville Chamber of Commerce/CVB
903.455.1510
tourism@greenvillechamber.com

www.greenvillechamber.com

Race, Run & Celebrate!

Huntsville Classic Mountain Bike Race
September 24 & 25

31st Annual Fair on the Square
October 1

27th Annual Huntsville 1/2 Marathon & 5K Run/Walk
October 15

Trail of Lights Throughout December
Starting December 3

Sunmart Endurance Run
December 10

60 miles north of Houston
800.289.0389
Call or log on for your FREE Visitors Guide!

SAM HOUSTON

www.huntsvilletexas.com

free 88-page magazine dedicated to recreation in Beaumont, Port Arthur, Port Neches, Groves, and Nederland.

Goings-on in Beaumont this October include blues festival; a canine klatch called Dogger-fest; Dinosaur Day at the Texas Energy Museum (one of a dozen museums that keep the area interesting); and the 5th annual Nightmare on Crockett Street, a costume party and Halloween celebration in the city's entertainment district.

Here's what to do in the Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange triangle when you're not in festival mode: Enjoy fine Cajun cuisine, burgers, or barbecue. Take a swamp tour, or visit the new alligator theme park. Explore one of the area's historic homes, like Port Arthur's Italian-style Pompeian Villa or Beaumont's Jay French House. View ocean-going vessels from the Sabine-Neches Waterway boardwalk. Shop for antiques and vintage treasures at Beaumont's Market on Orleans. And above all, don't forget to let the good times roll.

Call 800/392-4401; www.beaumontcvb.com.

A ROLLING STONE GATHERS NO MOSS

LONG BEFORE THEIR 1967 APPEARANCE on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, when Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger rolled his eyes salaciously during the sanitized version of their hit "Let's Spend the Night Together," the band reveled in their reputation as rock's bad boys. Now that the bad boys are grown up (and then some), the Stones can do what they want to do. And in October, they want to come to Texas.

On October 20, the band will perform at the El Paso Sun Bowl, then jet to Austin to play an outdoor show at Zilker Park on October 22. It's the first time the Stones have brought their tour to Austin. For ticket information, log onto www.rollingstones.com or www.ticketmaster.com.

ALL THAT GLITTERS

THROUGH JANUARY 29, 2007, THE Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon showcases a dazzling assemblage of gemstones rarely seen by the public. *The Duval Collection*, which was housed at the top of Houston's Pennzoil Building for more than two decades, includes spectacular specimens of copper, azurite, amethyst, and other treasures, including a colossal cluster of transparent quartz crystals that weighs nearly 2,000 pounds. Call 806/651-2244; www.panhandleplains.org.

OUR WEB SITE AT www.texashighways.com

Think Fall... Think Huntsville!



Home of Sam Houston



32nd Annual
Fair on the Square
Downtown Huntsville
October 7, 2006

28th Annual
1/2 Marathon
and 5K Run/Walk
Sam Houston
State University
October 21, 2006

Rocky Raccoon
50K/25K Trail Runs
Huntsville State Park
October 28, 2006

Huntsville Classic
Mountain Bike Race
Huntsville State Park
November 4 & 5, 2006

800-289-0389
936-295-8113

**November 3-12, 2006
New Braunfels, Texas**

Join us at the fall festival "Sausage on the Square" and enjoy a variety of food, drink, and entertainment. We'll have a great time with live music, games, and more. It's a great time to enjoy the fall season with family and friends. Don't miss out on this great event. For more information, visit www.wurstfest.com.

1-800-221-4369 • www.wurstfest.com
tours@wurstfest.com • info@wurstfest.com

TEXAS

FROM ALL OVER TEXAS!

SAM-TASTIC!

World Series
Huntsville
Home of Sam Houston

www.huntsvilletexas.com

Huntsville, the Home of Sam Houston, is nestled in the Piney Woods of Texas just north of Houston where you will find the tallest statue of an American hero in the world, "Sam Houston - A Tribute to Courage." Huntsville offers visitors an array of discoveries - history, nature, prominent state institutions, and antiques coupled with a small town historic flair and Texas charm. Visit the Sam Houston Museum, HEARTS Veteran Museum or the Prison Museum, enjoy a scenic stroll or camping at Huntsville State Park or enjoy a great game of golf.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15-19
Stan Musial World Series

October 6
Fair on the Square

www.huntsvilletexas.com
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Austin - Statesman

2007

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Wurstfest! Come enjoy great music, good
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Think Fall... Think Huntsville!



SAM HOUSTON



Home of
Sam Houston



33rd Annual Fair on the Square

Downtown Huntsville
October 6, 2007

29th Annual 1/2 Marathon & 5K Run/Walk

Sam Houston
State University
October 13, 2007

Rocky Raccoon 50K/25K

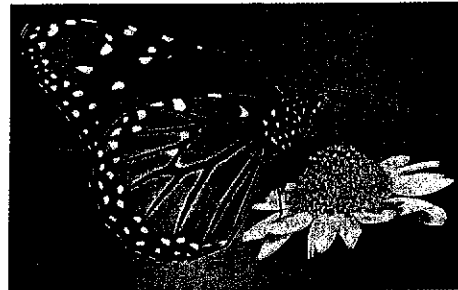
Trail Runs
Huntsville State Park
October 27, 2007

800-289-0389
936-295-8113

For THE ROAD

ber 20 with a parade, crafts and food vendors, a
carnival, and the coronation of the peanut queen
(936/687-2419; www.grapelandchamber.com).
Also on October 20, Whitesboro hosts its 42nd
annual Peanut Festival (903/564-3331; www.whitesborotx.com). Each Texas peanut fest of-
fers classic small-town fun that's as easy to ac-
cess as opening a jar of Skippy, Jif, or Peter Pan.
C'mon, it's time to get your peanut on!

© LARRY DITTO



Queen butterflies accumulate foul-tasting chemicals
in their bodies to deter predators.

ALL AFLUTTER

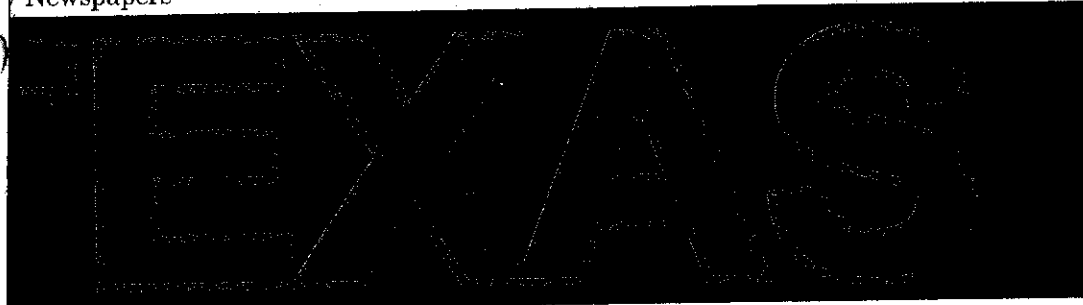
SITUATED AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE TWO
main migratory flyways between North and South
America, the Rio Grande Valley teems this time
of year with birds, butterflies, and awed onlook-
ers. If you haven't witnessed it yourself, what are
you waiting for?

From October 18-21, Mission hosts the 12th
annual Texas Butterfly Festival, which cele-
brates butterflies, moths, dragonflies, and other
winged wonders with an exhaustive schedule of
speakers, field trips, classes, and garden tours
throughout the region. But if you miss the fes-
tival, be sure to put these sites on your go-to
list: Weslaco's Valley Nature Center (where the
abundant and beautiful butterflies will astound
you), the North American Butterfly Association's
International Butterfly Park in Mission (where
you'll likely spy hundreds of species), and the
Edinburg Wetlands World Birding Center (de-
signed to attract butterflies).

For general information, click on "Rio Grande
Valley Guide" at www.valleychamber.com. For
specifics about the Texas Butterfly Festival, call
956/585-2727; www.texasbutterfly.com.

THE GREAT PUMPKIN

IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, IT'S EASY TO TELL
that fall has arrived: The grasses shimmer in gold-
en waves, leaves change colors and float away
on brisk breezes, and migratory birds make their



FROM ALL OVER TEXAS!

SAM-TASTIC!

Home of Sam Houston

www.huntsvilletexas.com

Huntsville, the Home of Sam Houston, is nestled in the Piney Woods of Texas just north of Houston where you will find the tallest statue of an American hero in the world, "Sam Houston - A Tribute to Courage." Huntsville offers visitors an array of discoveries - history, nature, prominent state institutions, and antiques coupled with a small town historic flair and Texas charm. Visit the Sam Houston Museum, HEARTS Veteran Museum or the Prison Museum, enjoy a scenic stroll or camping at Huntsville State Park or enjoy a great game of golf.

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Stan Musial World Series

October 6
Fair on the Square

www.huntsvilletexas.com
800-289-0389

5-7—ROCKPORT: Seafair Enjoy seafood, vendors, parade, boat show, entertainment, cooking demonstrations, cardboard boat races and crab races. Festival Grounds. www.rockportseafair.com 361/729-6445 or 800/242-0071 **GULF COAST**

5-7—SAN ANTONIO: Fall Arts & Crafts Show River Walk Extension. 210/227-4262 **SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS**

5-7—SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Splash www.upperdeckhotel.com 956/761-5953 **GULF COAST**

5-7—TEMPLE: Texas Early Day Tractor & Engine Association Annual Show Includes antique tractors, engines and farm equipment, flea market, demonstrations, great barbecue, tractor pull, tractor parade and more. 1717 Eberhardt Road. www.tedtea.org 254/718-3528 or 254/298-5900 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

5-7—WICKETT: Bluegrass Festival Enjoy bluegrass music and good fellowship. Old Wickett School. 432/943-6765 **BIG BEND COUNTRY**

5-7, 12-13—BAYTOWN: The Front Page Baytown Little Theater. 281/424-7617 **GULF COAST**

5-7, 12-14—WEATHERFORD: X Marks the Spot Navigationally challenged swashbuckling pirates invade Weatherford. 114 N. Denton Road. www.weatherfordtots.org 817/341-8687 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 28-30—GRANBURY: Granbury Live Costumed, choreographed live music productions from the golden age of rock 'n' roll. Granbury Historic Square. www.granburylive.com 800/989-8240 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

5, 12, 19, 26—ODESSA: Musical Menus Noel Heritage Plaza, 320 W. Fifth. 432/335-4682 **BIG BEND COUNTRY**

5-20—IRVING: Look Homeward Honky Tonk Angel Irving Arts Center. www.irvingartscenter.com 972/252-ARTS **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—ABILENE: Spirit of the Frontier Festival Includes children's games, food, music and cannon fire. Meet frontier soldiers, settlers, cowboys and Indians. Frontier Texas! Parade Grounds. 325/437-2800 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

6—ADDISON: Community Garage Sale Sam's Club Parking Lot. www.addisontexas.net 800/233-4766 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

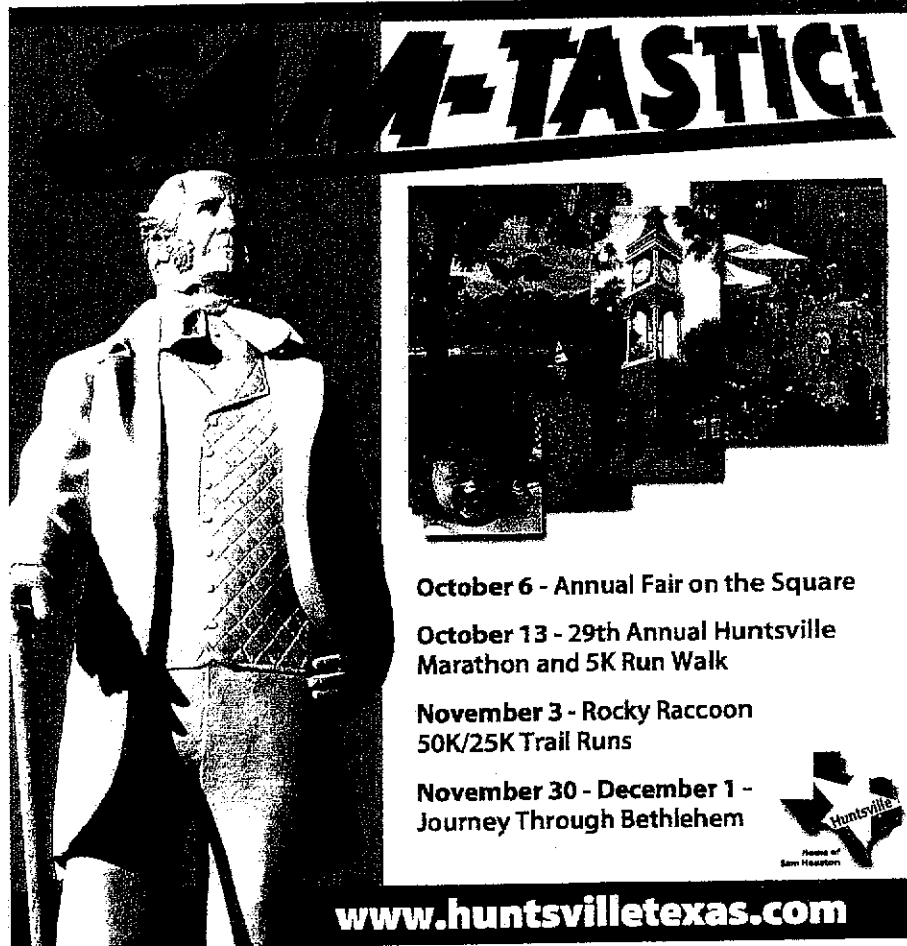
6—ATHENS: Bluegill Tournament Hours are 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. 903/676-2277 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—AUBREY: Peanut Festival Parade begins at 10 a.m. 940/365-9162 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—BANDERA: Johnny Nix Memorial Bull Riding Mansfield Park. www.banderacowboycapital.com 800/364-3833 **HILL COUNTRY**

6—BASTROP: Rotary Fest Features children's games, music and more. Riverbend Park in Smithville. 512/321-3310 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—BENBROOK: Heritage Fest Includes kids activities, re-enactors, living history demonstrations,



M-TASTIC

October 6 - Annual Fair on the Square

October 13 - 29th Annual Huntsville Marathon and 5K Run Walk

November 3 - Rocky Raccoon 50K/25K Trail Runs

November 30 - December 1 - Journey Through Bethlehem

www.huntsvilletexas.com

chuck wagons, music and fireworks. Dutch Branch Athletic Complex. www.benbrookchamber.org 817/249-4451 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—BONHAM: Annual Pumpkin Patch Bazaar 903/583-3128 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—BOWIE: Chicken & Bread Days Heritage Festival Downtown Bowie. 940/872-6246 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—BRENHAM: Autumn Fest at the Monastery Includes games, shopping and more. Monastery of St. Clare. www.monasteryminiaturehorses.com 979/836-9652 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—CANYON: Folklife Festival Offers demonstrations and entertainment by cultural groups who call the Panhandle home. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. www.panhandleplains.org 806/651-2244 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

6—CHILDRESS: Tour d' Cotton Bike Ride Riders gather to enjoy a bike ride — 10, 30 and 54 miles. 240 Main St. biz.childressstexas.net/tourdcotton (no www) **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

6—CLARKSVILLE: Red River County Historical Society Bazaar Includes craft booths, food vendors, RRC Quiz Bowl and Hall of Fame, duck races and tours of Historical Clarksville. Clarksville Square. 903/427-2266 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—COLEMAN: Fiesta de la Paloma Includes arts & crafts, food and other items. Miss Coleman County is crowned. Coleman Rodeo

Grounds. www.colemantexas.org 325/625-2163 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

6—CONROE: Missoula Children's Theatre — Jack & the Beanstalk Crighton Theatre. www.mcpas.org 936/441-7469 **PINEY WOODS**

6—CORSICANA: Corsicana Opry Martin's Music Hall, 201 S. Beaton. 903/872-8226 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—DECATUR: Cruise Nights on the Courthouse Square Antique auto show. Downtown Decatur. www.decaturmainsstreet.com 940/627-2741 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—DENISON: Main Street Fall Festival Enjoy arts & crafts, car and motorcycle shows, carnival, entertainment, activities and children's events. Downtown Denison. www.denisontexas.us 903/465-1551 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—DENTON: Fuego y Alma Music & Art Festival of North Texas Civic Center Park heats up with the musical sounds salsa, Latin jazz, Chicano rock and blues, and more. Showcases Latino artists, artisans and foods. www.fuegoyalma.org 940/898-3673 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—DIME BOX: Homecoming Includes a mini-marathon, barbecue cook-off, craft booths, children's games and a dance. Dime Box S.P.J.S.T. Hall. 979/542-3684 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

6—EL PASO: Indian & Traders Market Features Native American dancing, matachines and the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Youth Social

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Postcards from

FANTASTIC DESTINATIONS FROM ALL O

SAM-TASTIC!



Home of Sam Houston

www.huntsvilletexas.com

Huntsville, the Home of Sam Houston, is nestled in the Piney Woods of Texas just north of Houston where you will find the tallest statue of an American hero in the world, "Sam Houston - A Tribute to Courage." Huntsville offers visitors an array of discoveries - history, nature, prominent state institutions, and antiques coupled with a small town historic flair and Texas charm. Visit the Sam Houston Museum, HEARTS Veteran Museum or the Prison Museum, enjoy a scenic stroll or camping at Huntsville State Park or enjoy a great game of golf.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 13-17

Stan Musial
World Series

October 4

Fair on the Square

www.huntsvilletexas.com
800-289-0389

SMITHVILLE

RIVERBEND PARK ON THE COLORADO RIVER

Fishing Pier, Picnic Area, Campground, Volleyball, Playground, Picnic Tables, Ball Fields, Tennis Courts, Area with Covered Seating, Kitchen, and a small building. Arena, Baseball Field.

INDOOR RECREATION

Gymnasium, Basketball Court, Team Sports, Year-round Computer

SKATE PARK

behind Rec

4 OTHER CITY PARKS

RAILROAD PARK
MLK PARK & BASEBALL
MAIN ST. PARK overlooking
KEILBURG PARK "ON THE

ATTRACTIONS NEAR

Braescher State Park, Gulf Coast Kayaking, Bicycling, Tours

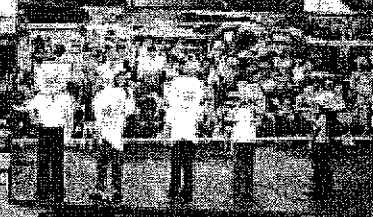
HUNTSVILLE

Stan Musial World Series

Amateur American
Baseball Tournament

August 13-17, 2008

www.smws.us



34th Annual Fair On The Square

Downtown Huntsville

October 4, 2008

www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us

SAM HOUSTON

1793-1863



Home of Sam Houston



www.huntsvilletexas.com

800-289-0389

...stock, load, and fire
 .410 version, a small gun
 much kick. As directed, I gear
 plugs and eye protection, slide two
 into the barrel, nestle the stock against
 my right shoulder, and holler, "Pull!" A series
 of orange clay discs soars into the sky directly
 ahead, and I follow the trajectory with my gun
 and pull the trigger. The disk falls to the ground
 intact and shatters. I try again, and eventually
 I get one, the clay target shattering in the sky.
 Next, I try a 20-gauge shotgun, and the kick
 takes me by surprise and leaves a raspberry
 on my shoulder. That explains the red "shotgun
 hickies" displayed by the other shooters in my
 group. "Yes, ma'am....shotgun hickies... that's
 exactly what they look like," agrees Bates. "We
 start the kids off with the little .410, just like the
 one you tried first, then build their confidence."

Many people come to
 Wildcatter Ranch to relax,
 but this weekend
 I'm playing sportswoman.

So far, I'm learning two things: Most ranch
 activities depend on confidence, whether it's
 shooting a shotgun or paddling a canoe. Here's
 the other thing: Unlike, say, at the grocery store
 near the University of Texas campus, where being
 addressed as "ma'am" makes me feel weird, I like
 it here in cattle-trail country, where drovers and
 outlaws alike created a romantic Western mythol-
 ogy that survives today in the polite tip of a cowboy
 hat or a two-fingered wave on the highway.

Over at the Wildcatter stables, head wrangler
 Jay Brewer not only calls me ma'am, but he
 confirms my conclusions about confidence. As
 I bandage an angry scrape on my arm, I asked
 him why my horse had decided to trot off the
 trail and run me into a mesquite bush. "Horses
 look for strong leadership," he says. "If you're
 not confident when you give 'em a cue, they'll
 take over as leader." And, echoing a theme I
 noticed repeatedly at Wildcatter Ranch, where
 family activities run the gamut from riding and
 shooting to washer-pitching and tetherball, Jay
 observed that "kids seem to learn faster and
 take directions better than adults."

I ask him why. "I think they're not scared of
 making mistakes," he tells me.

I'll remember that next time I try something
 I've never done before.

-LORI MOFFATT

Enjoy San Angelo

Where relaxation is an artform



This month, San Angelo hosts our scrumptious *Taste of San Angelo*,
 featuring a large variety of San Angelo's culinary fare.
 Come discover the *fine art* of goodtimes - right here in San Angelo!

- ☉ Taste of San Angelo, October 14th
- ☉ Downtown San Angelo Art Walk, October 16th
- ☉ Art-Ober-Feast, October 18th
- ☉ Roping Fiesta, October 24th

Call: 1-800-375-1206
 Visit: SanAngelo.org
 for more information.

SAN ANGELO
Downhome ~ Uptown ~ Goodtimes

HUNTSVILLE

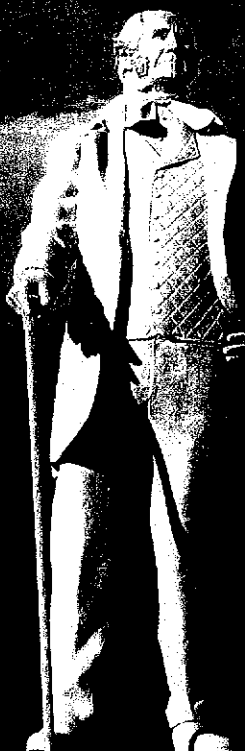
Think Huntsville!

34th Annual
FAIR on the SQUARE
 HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS
October 4, 2008
 Downtown Huntsville


30th Annual 1/2 Marathon & 5K Run/Walk
 Sam Houston State University
 October 11, 2008

Rocky Raccoon 50K/25K Trail Runs
 Huntsville State Park
 November 8, 2008


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SAM HOUSTON
 1793 - 1863



Huntsville



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 Sam Houston

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HUNTSVILLE

34TH ANNUAL

Fair On The Square

www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us

Historic Downtown
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Home of
Sam Houston

www.huntsvilletexas.com

800-289-0389

4—NACOGDOCHES: Second Annual "Ready for Take-Off" Open House Includes static display of aircraft, music, aviation-related activities, food and more. A.L. Mangham Jr. Regional Airport. E-mail: muresti@ci.nacogdoches.tx.us 936/560-9567 **PINEY WOODS**

4—ODESSA: Brand New Oprea Local and area musicians perform country-and-western and gospel music at 7 p.m. The Globe Theatre. 432/332-1586 **BIG BEND COUNTRY**

4—ODESSA: Permian Basin String Quartet, Chamber Series Begins at 7 p.m. C.E.E.D. Building. 432/563-0921 **BIG BEND COUNTRY**

4—PALESTINE: Embrace the Arts Progressive arts tour includes a museum, library and Judith Summerville Arts with a variety of art exhibits and milieus. www.visitpalestine.com 903/723-3014 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—PORT ARANSAS: Sand & Surf Beach Run Features a 5K and 10K run. Port Aransas beach. 361/749-6687 **GULF COAST**

4—QUANAH: Range Firefighting Presents a program on range firefighting and management. Copper Breaks State Park. 940/839-4331 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

4—SAN ANGELO: Start Your Engines! The San Angelo Symphony revs up with John Adams' A Slow Ride in a Fast Machine, DeFalla's evocative Nights in the Gardens of Spain and Berlioz' Symphony Fantastique. San Angelo City Auditorium. 325/658-5877 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

4—SAN ANGELO: Dave Macey Gravesite - The Mystery Remains Hear the story at

10 a.m. San Angelo State Park. 325/949-4757 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

4—SAN ANGELO: First Saturday at the Chicken Farm Art Center Includes music, art, kids activities and more. 2505 Martin Luther King. www.chickenfarmartcenter.com 325/653-4936 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

4—SEGUIN: Fifth Annual Viva Seguin Conjunto Festival/Accordion Workshop Workshop is from noon to 3 p.m. Performance by workshop students/jam session begins at 4 p.m. Festival is from 5 p.m. to midnight. Seguin Events Complex. E-mail: cvb@seguintx.org 800/580-7322 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—SMITHVILLE: First Saturday Art Festival Showcases artists of the Lost Pines area. Gazebo Train Park. www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org 512/360-2822 or 512/629-2213 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—SOMERVILLE: Somerfest at the Lake Somerville Marina and Campground. 979/272-1835 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—STONEWALL: Volksmarch on the LBJ Ranch This is a non-competitive walk for all ages. Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. www.nps.gov/lyjo 830/868-7128 ext. 235 **HILL COUNTRY**

4—SULPHUR SPRINGS: Indian Summer Festival & Annual John Chester Dutch Oven Cook-Off Features Native American dancers, Civil War enactors and musical groups. Interpreters in period dress will demonstrate butter churning, soap making, blacksmithing and the gristmill operation. Heritage Park. 903/885-2387 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—THURBER: T-P Trades Day I-20, exit 367 along the I-20 frontage road. 254/672-5337 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—TYLER: Woven Harmony Begins at 2 p.m. U.T. Cowan Center. www.cowancenter.org 903/566-7424 **PINEY WOODS**

4—WALLER: Sixth Annual Shane Harris Poker Ride Includes run, live auction, mud-wrestling exhibition and dance. East Monaville Hall. www.therounders.org **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—WALLIS: Wallis Fine Rides Autofest Includes classic cars, antique cars and street rods. Wallis American Legion Hall Grounds. E-mail: cityhall@wallistexas.org 979/478-6712 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—WASHINGTON: Power to Move Get an introduction to oxen and driving. Reservations required. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. www.brenhamcommunityed.com 979/277-6531 or 936/878-2213 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—WHARTON: Bellamy Brothers Crescent Hall. 979/532-1862 **GULF COAST**

4-5—ABILENE: Butterfield & Trails West Tour Ride the trail road traveled by the Butterfield Overland Stage 150 years ago while enjoying the sights, sounds and discoveries found along the route today. www.bilbreytours.com 325/676-2556 or 325/692-1308 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

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I favorite George's restaurant offers everything and huge drinks.

TIMES IN OK

Oklahoma, Stillwater and Norman offer Big XII action even closer to a. In Stillwater, check out concerts at the Tumbleweed Dance Halls and Bert Arena, shopping in the historic downtown or Campus Corner areas, cheese fries at Eskimo Joe's.

Stop by the Gardiner Art Gallery in Bartlett Center for Studio Arts on Oklahoma State University campus to see new works-in-progress as well as completed pieces. And no one should fail to twist your arm to visit to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame—it's a real treat.

The history of OSU and the state's universities is told at the Oklahoma Museum of Higher Education, north of University Avenue on the campus between Hester and Rock streets.

Norman has the state's largest recreational rock climbing wall at Andy Alligator's Fun Park, as well as the state's largest casino and the Little River Zoo, so everyone in the family can have fun, no matter who wins the game.

Tours of the University of Oklahoma can be arranged at the visitor center in Jacobson Hall, and it's well worth the time. And two must-dos are the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art on Elm Avenue—traveling contemporary exhibits from around the world complement rotating selections from the permanent collection—and the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History on Chautauqua Avenue—the state's history, starting with the dinosaurs.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

For travel planning information, visit AAA.com/travel.

H&A

Rona Distenfeld is a freelance writer and regular contributor based in Austin, Texas.

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4—NACOGDOCHES: Second Annual "Ready for Take-Off" Open House Includes static display of aircraft, music, aviation-related activities, food and more. A.L. Mangham Jr. Regional Airport. E-mail: muresti@ci.nacogdoches.tx.us 936/560-9567 **PINEY WOODS**

4—ODESSA: Brand New Oprea Local and area musicians perform country-and-western and gospel music at 7 p.m. The Globe Theatre. 432/332-1586 **BIG BEND COUNTRY**

4—ODESSA: Permian Basin String Quartet, Chamber Series Begins at 7 p.m. C.E.E.D. Building. 432/563-0921 **BIG BEND COUNTRY**

4—PALESTINE: Embrace the Arts Progressive arts tour includes a museum, library and Judith Summerville Arts with a variety of art exhibits and milleus. www.visitpalestine.com 903/723-3014 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—PORT ARANSAS: Sand & Surf Beach Run Features a 5K and 10K run. Port Aransas beach. 361/749-6687 **GULF COAST**

4—QUANAH: Range Firefighting Presents a program on range firefighting and management. Copper Breaks State Park. 940/839-4331 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

4—SAN ANGELO: Start Your Engines! The San Angelo Symphony revs up with John Adams' A Slow Ride in a Fast Machine, DeFalla's evocative Nights in the Gardens of Spain and Berlioz' Symphony Fantastique. San Angelo City Auditorium. 325/658-5877 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

4—SAN ANGELO: Dave Macey Gravesite - The Mystery Remains Hear the story at

10 a.m. San Angelo State Park. 325/949-4757 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

4—SAN ANGELO: First Saturday at the Chicken Farm Art Center Includes music, art, kids activities and more. 2505 Martin Luther King. www.chickenfarmartcenter.com 325/653-4936 **PANHANDLE PLAINS**

4—SEGUIN: Fifth Annual Viva Seguin Conjunto Festival/Accordion Workshop Workshop is from noon to 3 p.m. Performance by workshop students/jam session begins at 4 p.m. Festival is from 5 p.m. to midnight. Seguin Events Complex. E-mail: cvb@seguintx.org 800/580-7322 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—SMITHVILLE: First Saturday Art Festival Showcases artists of the Lost Pines area. Gazebo Train Park. www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org 512/360-2822 or 512/629-2213 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—SOMERVILLE: Somerfest at the Lake Somerville Marina and Campground. 979/272-1835 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—STONEWALL: Volksmarch on the LBJ Ranch This is a non-competitive walk for all ages. Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. www.nps.gov/lyjo 830/868-7128 ext. 235 **HILL COUNTRY**

4—SULPHUR SPRINGS: Indian Summer Festival & Annual John Chester Dutch Oven Cook-Off Features Native American dancers, Civil War enactors and musical groups. Interpreters in period dress will demonstrate butter churning, soap making, blacksmithing and the gristmill operation. Heritage Park. 903/885-2387 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—THURBER: T-P Trades Day I-20, exit 367 along the I-20 frontage road. 254/672-5337 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—TYLER: Woven Harmony Begins at 2 p.m. U.T. Cowan Center. www.cowancenter.org 903/566-7424 **PINEY WOODS**

4—WALLER: Sixth Annual Shane Harris Poker Ride Includes run, live auction, mud-wrestling exhibition and dance. East Monaville Hall. www.therounders.org **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—WALLIS: Wallis Fine Rides Autofest Includes classic cars, antique cars and street rods. Wallis American Legion Hall Grounds. E-mail: cityhall@wallistexas.org 979/478-6712 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

4—WASHINGTON: Power to Move Get an introduction to oxen and driving. Reservations required. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. www.brenhamcommunityed.com 979/277-6531 or 936/878-2213 **PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

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son on how to lock, load, and fire choose a .410 version, a small gun have much kick. As directed, I gear lugs and eye protection, slide two ie barrel, nestle the stock against ulder, and holler, "Pull!" A series ay discs soars into the sky directly I follow the trajectory with my gun trigger. The disk falls to the ground rattlers. I try again, and eventually e clay target shattering in the sky.

20-gauge shotgun, and the kick / surprise and leaves a raspberry der. That explains the red "shotgun played by the other shooters in my ma'am....shotgun hickeys... that's they look like," agrees Bates. "We : off with the little .410, just like the I first, then build their confidence."

iy people come to
atter Ranch to relax,
ut this weekend
aying sportswoman.

n learning two things: Most ranch pend on confidence, whether it's hotgun or paddling a canoe. Here's ng: Unlike, say, at the grocery store /ersity of Texas campus, where being : "ma'am" makes me feel weird, I like ttle-trail country, where drovers and created a romantic Western mythol- ves today in the polite tip of a cowboy fingered wave on the highway.

e Wildcatter stables, head wrangler not only calls me ma'am, but he conclusions about confidence. As n angry scrape on my arm, I asked ' horse had decided to trot off the me into a mesquite bush. "Horses ing leadership," he says. "If you're it when you give 'em a cue, they'll s leader." And, echoing a theme I eatedly at Wildcatter Ranch, where ties run the gamut from riding and washer-pitching and tetherball, Jay at "kids seem to learn faster and ns better than adults."

why. "I think they're not scared of akes," he tells me.

iber that next time I try something one before.

—LORI MOFFATT

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- ☉ Downtown San Angelo Art Walk, October 16th
- ☉ Art-Ober-Feast, October 18th
- ☉ Roping Fiesta, October 24th

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